

San Antonio, Texas – [During a local high school basketball game this week, students celebrated their school's victory by chanting 'USA' at a team with a predominantly Hispanic roster](#) . Congressman Gonzalez condemned the action, but in an effort to address the larger issue, he encouraged a community discussion. Congressman Gonzalez issued the following statement regarding the unfortunate incident:

“This past week, an unfortunate and reprehensible incident occurred during what should have been an enjoyable competition between San Antonio schools. While high school sports and competitive rivalries are deeply engrained in the culture and character of Texas, this incident has no place in our society. The outburst from students did not just show a profound lack of sportsmanship, but it pointed to a larger polarizing divide in our nation.

“To call this event a mere mistake of clearly prejudicial sentiments would be to severely misunderstand a flaw affecting our society. I believe we can overcome this problem, but only if we are able to confront the true issue at hand. The last thing we need is to put this incident behind us by publicly announcing that such behavior will not be tolerated. While I commend the teachers and administrators that quickly put a stop to the chants, it is important for our community to examine what young people are experiencing and learning that would have them harbor these views.

“We can easily allow this incident to create further division amongst us or we can use it as an opportunity for our community to come together to address the true nature of this problem. In the coming weeks, it is my hope that our community can engage in a conversation to assess these misguided perceptions about our differences in order to forge a pathway to better understanding and collaboration.

“America was founded on the principles of justice, fairness, and democracy, and our public school systems should be an extension of those qualities.”

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